Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has released grant-in-aid of Rs. 5.82 lakhs during 1998-99 to Guild of Service, a voluntary organization working for women in need and implementing a project for the rehabilitation of widows of Vrindavan by providing them shelter, food, means of living, vocational training etc. Another grant of Rs. 14.04 lakhs has been sanctioned during the current financial year (1999-2000), 50% of which amounting to Rs. 7.02 lakhs has been released in October, 1999.

(d) No, Sir.

Central Assistance to Orphanages

2537. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of orphanages receiving financial assistance from the Government in the Country at present, State-wise;

(b) the criteria fixed for giving financial assistance to them; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure proper utilization of the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) The Government of India is not having any scheme to give financial assistance to orphanages.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Assistance to Craftsmen through NBCFDC in U. P.

†2538. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government extend assistance to the States for the benefit of craftsmen through National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation; and

(b) if so, the amount received by Uttar Pradesh under this head during the last three years and the target fixed for the next year, alongwith the number of people to be benefitted thereby during the said period?

---

†Original Notice of the question was recived in Hindi.